

1915 - 2015: PCNS is celebrating 100 years!

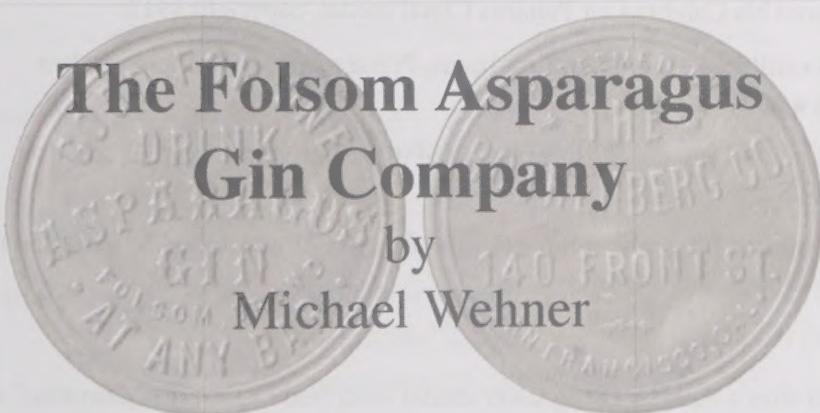


**1189th meeting of the
Pacific Coast Numismatic Society
7:30PM Wednesday May 27, 2015
Building C, Fort Mason
San Francisco, California**

**The Folsom Asparagus
Gin Company**

by

Michael Wehner



1188th meeting, April 22, 2015

Federico Castillo delivered his talk, **Minor Cooper Keith, How to build a fortune through Railroads, Bananas, and Coffee.**

Minor Keith was the nephew of Henry Meiggs, businessman from San Francisco who escaped to South America from the city a little before he was to be thrown in jail for swindling.

Meiggs began building railroads in South America and recouped his fortune by these endeavors. He was contracted to build a railroad in Costa Rica from San Jose in the center of the country to the Atlantic coast; after our very own John C Fremont defaulted on a contract to do the building. A railroad would greatly reduce the time and transportation costs of exporting Costa Rican coffee to Europe by eliminating the need for ships to sail around the bottom tip of South America.

Meiggs then enlisted his nephew to finish building the railroad, but needless to say, financial setbacks, disease, and misfortune dogged the project from start to finish. Keith through refinancing and determination finally completed the task and was rewarded by the Costa Rican government with leases on land along either side of the railroad line. He began growing bananas and other crops on this land making a lucrative business of exporting the yellow fruit, basically securing a monopoly on the South American banana export business.

After his own financial troubles Keith combined with the West Indies banana monopoly, the Boston Fruit Company, forming the United Fruit Company which then controlled the entire banana export industry.

Keith invested in other industries in Central and South America and became a very wealthy man, eventually returning to his birthplace in New York where he died in the early 1920's.

Exhibits:

Dan shared his Culebra Cut Panama Canal medal, copyright 1912.

Michael exhibited his outstanding Lucas, Private Eye San Francisco token showing a hound dog pictorial.

Mary shared a Demetrius I tetradrahm of uncertain issue, from Cilicia or Northern Syria

Chris exhibited his Brandenburg $\frac{1}{4}$ Taler from 1622 which he had acquired from a recent Santa Clara coin show.

Raffle:

Federico won a boxed sterling silver medal inscribed "Nummus Memoriae" on one side and "Industriae Pro Integritate Naturae" on the reverse.

Bob won twice, a 1998 Kentucky Derby 3 medal set of bronze, antiqued bronze and plated bronze, plus a book donated by Ken Takahashi, "Certified Barber Coinage."

Mary won three (3) times; 2 books (also donated by Ken) including "Standing Liberty Quarters" and "Liberty Seated Dollars" and an Improvement Bond from Healdsburg, California containing six redeemed coupons.

Mark took home 5 cents, 10 cents, 25 cents, and 1 dollar Military Payment Certificates.

Dan absconded with another donated book, "U.S. Type Coins."

Lastly, Chris won a grouping of ancient coins, some fake and some real, meaning Chris has work to do.

Do you have PCNS Memorabilia that others might find interesting? We want to hear from you.

Contact Jerry at jschim40@sbcglobal.net

PCNS 100th Anniversary Banquet

*will be held on
Saturday
September 26, 2015*

*Argonaut Hotel
495 Jefferson Street, San Francisco*

Details coming soon.

SAVE THE DATE!

New Members:

Jeff Shevlin was accepted for membership at the March meeting.

2015 meeting Schedule:

June 20, 2015: Luncheon at Dan's in Tiburon.

July 22, 2015: Building C, Fort Mason

August 26, 2015: Building C, Fort Mason

September 26, 1915: 100th Anniversary Banquet, Argonaut Hotel

October 28, 2015: Building C, Fort Mason

November 25, 2015: Building C, Fort Mason

December 23, 2015: Building C, Fort Mason

PCNS 100th Anniversary Medal

The Pacific Coast Numismatic Society has announced design and ordering information for their 100th Anniversary Medal. This medal will be engraved and struck by Daniel Carr of the Moonlight Mint in Colorado, and distributed this Fall to subscribers who pre-order by June. The design for this historic medal revisits the PPIE commemorative designs and continues the Society's traditional octagonal logo with a new high-relief die. (Images shown for design info are not actual photos.) Mintage will be limited to prepaid orders received by the Society by June 2015. The octagonal 41mm medal will be struck in silver, with coppers available only as part of the 2-medal set (1 copper + 1 one-ounce silver).

Orders with payment, \$100 per set or \$75 silver only, plus \$6 postage, must reach the Society by June at: PCNS, Box 475656, San Francisco, CA 94147. **Orders now accepted via PayPal. See instructions at <http://pcns.org/orders/index.html>.**

PCNS was founded in 1915, by Farran Zerbe and a group of San Francisco collectors, during the Panama Pacific International Exposition. It was the first numismatic organization established in the western United States. PCNS hosted the American Numismatic Association's 1915 Convention in San Francisco, in conjunction with PPIE events.

